

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA[®]

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 30th 2006

I. Meeting called to order at 6:03pm by Randi Tanglen

Present: Catherine Neish, Tom LaGatta, Paul Thorn, Gail Bradford, Jennifer Cohen, Joshua Scott, Joe VanOpdorp, Kedar Dhane, Jim Collins, Sarah Mosher, Anne Murdaugh, Amanda Brobbel, Nick Fernandez, Boris Glebov, Rob Schumaker, Christina Vasquez, Kathryn Williams, Ariel Fisher, Shaun Halbert, Randi Tanglen, Amelia Kiddle

Proxies: Aaron Gubi, Laura Gronewold, Claudia Benavente, Kathleen Corcoran, Elaine Ulrich

II. Calls to the audience: None.

III. Reading and approval of minutes – Paul Thorn motions to pass the 11/16/06 minutes, Nick Fernandez seconds, the motion carries unanimously.

IV. Officer Reports:

President – Paul Thorn – (1) Tuition and fee setting took place at the ABOR meeting today. The ASA proposed a 2.3% increase for resident graduates and undergraduates. This proposal assumed the legislature would make a 12% increase in funding for universities; if they failed to do so, the students would pay the increases proposed by the university presidents. This proposal was defeated by a vote of 4 to 6. Regent Boyce proposed a 5% increase for resident graduates and undergraduates. This proposal passed by vote of 7 to 3. There was no discussion of non-resident tuition. The regents went with the presidents' proposals, which means an increase 8.9% for non-resident graduates and undergraduates at the UA. A decision on mandatory fees was tabled until the next meeting. The regents thought there was a communication problem between students and administrators, and wanted to give more time for discussion. (2) The Graduate College is ready to disperse \$220,000 in financial aid. They plan to change the name of the program from the Graduate Diversity Fellowship to the Graduate College Fellowship. (3) Paul met with Melissa Vito. She will meet with President and Leslie Tolbert to make a pitch for a GPSC staff person. She will also bring up the memo of understanding on GPSC/ASUA representation. This document has been forwarded to the Student Affairs Policy Committee for review. (4) The first draft of the Request for Proposals for a new health insurance plan has been forwarded to Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee. The proposal includes a call for bids on a prescription drug benefit and on an optional dental plan. The RFP will ask insurance companies to provide numbers on these benefits. The universities will then evaluate whether they wish to include these benefits. (5) During his trial, the former ASA director implied other individuals had stolen money from the ASA. More investigations will follow. Another UA representative has resigned from the ASA, leaving a position open. The ASA elected a new chair. (6) The GPSC executive and directors met this week to draw up a plan for the spring semester. By the beginning of the school year, representatives will have 3.5 months to complete their term.

Vice President – Anne Murdaugh – (1) Catherine and Anne went to the NAGPS conference in Seattle from Nov. 16-19. (2) The blood drive produced 303 units of blood. Anne wants to do another blood drive in March or April.

Assembly Chairperson – Randi Tanglen – (1) Travel grant judges can pick up their packets in the office next week. Please let Aaron know if you plan to pick it up in the office, or if you would like it sent via Campus Mail. Packets are due before the holiday break. (2) The Student Affairs Policy Committee is concerned about the ASUA/GPSC relationship, and is reviewing a document of understanding between the ASUA and GPSC. The chair of the committee, John Ulrich, asked Dean Comries and Jim Drnek to attend their last meeting. Jim Drnek produced a document that had been written in the spring semester by administrators that addresses policy issues that outline representation by the ASUA/GPSC (such as representation at commencement, in the ASA, at tuition setting, in university committees, in presidential search committees, and in campus wide referendums). Such a document would allow the GPSC to move forward without having to worry about representation issues.

Treasurer – Joshua Scott – The Committee of 11 are concerned about the faculty senate meetings. They would like to revamp the meetings to reduce bureaucratic issues.

Secretary – Catherine Neish – (1) Meetings for the spring semester will be on Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm. The first meeting will be on January 17. (2) There will be a poker tournament on Saturday, December 2 at 8:00pm. Please tell your constituents. (3) Congrats to Gail for a great BBQ social!

V. Representative and Director Reports:

Amanda Brobbel: We will have our own purchasing card within the next week. Amanda will be responsible for the card. Please contact her ahead of time if you wish to make a purchase.

Jenny Cohen: Attended the AWF meeting (the president and the regents were also in attendance). The Student Bill of Rights was discussed. The regents disapproved of the bill, and will not bring it up for discussion in their meeting. Some regents also expressed concern that students with “cheaper” tuition might feel that their degree is worth less.

Tom LaGatta: (1) Tom is attending the Math task force committee meeting tomorrow. Will report on it via e-mail. (2) Tom is studying abroad in France next semester. Cory Christensen will be proxying for Tom next semester.

Boris Glebov: Boris attended the research policy committee meeting. The university is thinking of creating a list of equipment available on campus, which it would then make available to the university and outside businesses.

Gail Bradford: ~24 people showed up for Gail’s constituency meeting. She used the dining card to purchase pizza.

VI. New Business

a. Rec Center Presentation

Beata Blachuta from Campus Rec came to tell us about the new addition to the rec center. The old building will be paid off in 2011. Construction on the new building will begin in 2007, and is expected to be finished in 2009. A set-aside fund will pay for the construction and two years of overlap. They are now at the planning phase of the new building, and are looking for ideas from students on how to use the space. The new building will include a large fitness space, MAC gymnasium, an addition to outdoor adventures, and a climbing wall. There will also be an open space with sand volleyball courts. If you have ideas and/or suggestions, please send them to Beata: beata@email.arizona.edu.

b. Club/POD Funding

Josh Scott proposes initial club funding for “RPCV Fellows” \$0, special club funding for “RPCV Fellows” \$1770, and POD funding for “NSSLHA” \$1500, “College of Public Health” \$1368, “Southern Arizona Geographers” \$1500, and “Art History Graduate Student Association” \$750. Concerns were expressed that events normally funded by departments were coming to GPSC for money. Josh motions to table RPCV Fellows and College of Public Health to gather more information about the events, Anne Murdaugh seconds. Motion carries unanimously. Joe VanOpdorp motions to approve the remaining funds, Boris Glebov seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

c. Club Funding Appeal

The History Graduate Student Association wanted to host a graduate student/faculty interaction off-campus at Club Congress. They wanted special club funding for \$500. Due to limited funding, the Appropriations Committee denied the application, wishing to prioritize events that most clearly promote the academic and professional development of UA graduate and professional students. The committee was also worried about setting a precedent for funding social events, especially ones that focused on a single department. Amelia Kiddle, a representative of the HGSA, appealed the Committee’s recommendation. The appeal claimed that the application was within the guidelines, since funding social events is within GPSC’s mandate. Amelia suggested altering the posted funding guidelines to say that we cannot fund departmental social engagements. Joe motioned to reject the appeal, Kedar seconds, fifteen for, two opposed, two abstentions. Motion carries.

d. NAGPS Report

Anne summarized the trip she and Catherine made to the NAGPS conference in Seattle from Nov. 16-19. Benefits of NAGPS membership include access to health insurance plans, discounts on GEICO (if you don’t live in AZ), advocacy, and advice on loan consolidation (free presentation by Graduate Leverage). Legislative Action Day will take place the second week in February. This will include letter writing and visits to legislatures. Some acts currently under consideration in the House are the Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act (no taxes on stipends), Student Borrower Bill of Rights Act (transparent student loan process), Coalition for an Affordable and Accessible Graduate Education (assuring higher education is available to anyone), and the National Tuition Endowment Act (make federal student loan system more efficient and invest money back into students).

VII. Call to adjourn – At 8:17pm, Anne Murdaugh made a call to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Nick Fernandez, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Neish